



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Release to the PM 's OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1945.

Production of most kinds of canned fish on the Pacific coast during the first three quarters of 1945 attained a level approximately equal to the normal prewar production, according to figures released today by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries.

The year's pack of tuna and Pacific sardines will probably be the largest since the years immediately preceding the war, while the pack of salmon in the Puget Sound district is believed to be the largest since 1937. Although production of Alaska salmon and Pacific mackerel is disappointingly low, the reduction of Government purchases of canned fish will make even these varieties available to civilians in larger quantities than for several years.

The total pack of Pacific sardines since the first of January had reached 1,488,711 cases by the end of September, compared with 1,335,907 for the first 9 months of 1944. Peak production in this fishery is during the fall and early winter months. A goal of approximately five million cases has been set for this year.

The tuna fishery is enjoying a good season, with 2,354,590 cases packed by the first of September, compared with 1,955,690 cases during the same period last year.

In Puget Sound, the heaviest runs of pink salmon since 1933 have been reported. However, because of the heavy demand, a larger portion of the catch than usual was sold fresh and the canned pack does not show a proportionate increase. Preliminary figures indicate that approximately 300,000 cases have been packed.

By the end of September, with fishing virtually concluded for the season, the pack of salmon in Alaska totaled 4,300,538 cases, as against a pack of 4,900,000 cases last year.

Pacific mackerel is in short supply, although the season of heaviest production is ahead and some of the deficit may be made up. Only 67,468 cases had been packed by the first of September, the smallest output for many years. The pack for the comparable period of 1944 was 104,733 cases.